

**REMARKS**

The Office Action in the above-identified application has been carefully considered and this Amendment has been presented to place this application in condition for allowance. Accordingly, reexamination and reconsideration of this application are respectfully requested.

Claims 1-2, 4-8, 10-12, 14-16, and 18-20 are in the present application. Claims 3, 9, 13, and 17 have been canceled without prejudice. It is submitted that these claims were patentably distinct over the prior art cited by the Examiner, and that these claims were in full compliance with the requirements of 35 U.S.C. § 112. The changes to the claims, as presented herein, are not made for the purpose of patentability within the meaning of 35 U.S.C. sections 101, 102, 103 or 112. Rather, these changes are made simply for clarification and to round out the scope of protection to which Applicants are entitled.

Claims 1-5, 7-8, 10-14, 16, and 18-20 were rejected under 35 U.S.C. §102(a) as being unpatentable over Sugiyama et al. (U.S. Patent No. 5,633,723) in view of Choi (U.S. Patent No. 5,915,064). Claims 6, 9, 15, and 17 were rejected under 35 U.S.C. §103(a) as being unpatentable over Sugiyama and Choi in view of Yamamoto (U.S. Patent No. 5,469,270). The present invention is patentable over these references for at least the following reasons.

The present invention requires that “the predetermined recording medium is a tape medium for recording the composite video image in a series of tracks; wherein each track has a video auxiliary area for recording the additional information.” The present invention also requires that “the additional information recorded in the video auxiliary area comprises frame

division configuration information indicative of an arrangement and a maximum number of reduced video images in the composite video image, recording apparatus identification information for identifying a video recording apparatus used for recording each of the reduced video images, and contents information regarding a contents of each of the reduced video images included in the composite video image” (Claims 1, 10 and 11). Although Yamamoto and Choi disclose a tape recording medium, the references fail to teach or suggest recording additional information in a video auxiliary area of the tracks used to record the composite video image.

Therefore, for at least these reasons, Sugiyama, Choi, and Yamamoto fail to meet the limitations of the present invention and the claims should now be allowed.

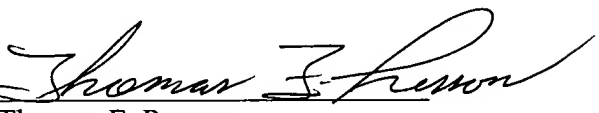
In view of the foregoing amendments and remarks, it is respectfully submitted that the application is in condition for allowance. Early and favorable reconsideration of the application are respectfully requested.

No additional fees are deemed to be required for the filing of this amendment, but if such are required, the Examiner is hereby authorized to charge any insufficient fees or credit any overpayment associated with the above-identified application to Deposit Account No. 50-0320.

If any issues remain, or if the Examiner has any further suggestions, he/she is invited to call the undersigned at the telephone number provided below. The Examiner's consideration of this matter is gratefully acknowledged.

Respectfully submitted,

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